

Remarks

Claims 31-32, and 34-56 are pending and in condition for allowance.

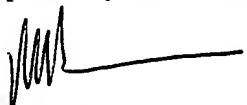
Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of an interview with both the undersigned and his colleague John Dolan, on February 16, 2006, to discuss the above identified application and the reconsideration of the pending claims thereof. The Applicant acknowledges the content of the interview summary (Form PTOL-413) prepared by the Examiner, dated February 16, 2006, and specifically appreciates the Examiner's indication that the amendment made above would overcome the present rejection. Furthermore, the following remarks include the issues addressed in the interview and may be considered a summary of the interview as well as a reply to the Office Action.

The rejections under Section 102 and 103, will be addressed together, since both rely solely on Link (US Patent No. 5,944,759), and are both respectfully traversed for similar reasons. Link fails to teach or suggest various aspects of the present invention as presently provided in the various independent and dependent claims. For instance, Link does not disclose a tibial projection as claimed by Applicant. It should now be clear that neither Figure 6, nor column 4, lines 48-60, both cited by the Examiner, show or suggest a tibial projection of the type claimed and amply described by Applicant. Nor, in turn, does the implant of Link appear to provide the various features or function of Applicant's implant, for instance with regard to minimal motion relative to the tibia.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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